

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing timing information amongst a plurality of master devices, ~~the method~~ comprising:

~~distributing~~ transmitting a global clock to ~~a first~~ each master device ~~from~~ of the plurality of master devices, wherein ~~said first~~ each master device of the plurality of master devices operates according to a respective and unique local clock that is independent of said global clock, wherein a slave device wirelessly communicates with a first master device of the plurality of master devices by synchronizing with the respective local clock of said first master device;

determining, in each master device, an a respective offset between said global clock and said respective local clock, wherein the respective offsets are different from each other; and

~~distributing~~ transmitting said respective offset of said first master device of the plurality of master devices to a second master device of the plurality of master devices to facilitate a wireless handoff of said slave device from said first master device to said second master device at least one master device other than said first master device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said global clock comprises a local clock of one of the plurality of master devices.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said respective offset of said first master device is distributed over a communication pathway linking said first master device to said second master device ~~first one of said master devices to said at least one of said master devices.~~

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said communication pathway comprises a

wired communication pathway.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said communication pathway comprises a wireless communication pathway.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said distributing said offset comprises storing said offset in a memory accessible to said plurality of master devices~~ each master device transmits said respective offset to a central storage device and wherein each master device can request, from the central storage device, said respective offsets of other master devices of said plurality of master devices.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said distributing said offset comprises providing~~ said second master device requests said respective offset of said first master device upon receiving a request from one of said plurality of master devices and wherein said first master device transmits said respective offset to said second master device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~each of said plurality of master devices stores said offset~~ master device stores respective offsets of other master devices of said plurality of master devices to effect handoffs of slave devices.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said first master device comprises a first Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a first master in a first network and wherein said second master device comprises a second Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a second master in a second network.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing timing information amongst of a

plurality of master devices, ~~the method~~ comprising:

~~distributing~~ transmitting a global clock to ~~a first master device from~~ each master device of the plurality of master devices;

transmitting, to each master device, a respective and unique offset;

generating, in each master device, a respective local clock using an said respective offset and said global clock, wherein said respective local clock is used by said a first master device of the plurality of master devices to communicate with a slave device; and

~~distributing~~ transmitting said respective offset of said first master device to a second master device ~~selected from~~ of the plurality of master devices to facilitate a wireless handoff of said slave device from said first master device to said second master device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein each of said master devices includes a local oscillator and wherein said global clock comprises a clock signal generated by the local oscillator associated with one of the plurality of master devices.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said ~~offset is~~ respective offsets are stored in a central location and provided to at least ~~one~~ two of said master devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said respective offset of said first master device is stored locally at said second master device.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said first master device comprises a Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a first master in a first network and wherein said second master device comprises a Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a second master in a second network.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a global clock transmitting, over a first communication pathway, a global clock signal to each master device of a plurality of master devices; and

each master device of said plurality of master devices comprising a respective local clock generator that generates a respective and unique local clock and a respective memory that stores a respective offset, wherein each master device determines said respective offset from said global clock and said respective local clock,

wherein a first master device of said plurality of master devices transmits, over a second communication pathway, its respective offset to a second master device of said plurality of master devices to facilitate a wireless handoff of a slave device from said first master device to said second master device, wherein said slave device is synchronized with said respective local clock of said first master device and wherein said respective offset of said first master device is used by said second master device to communicate with said slave device

~~a communication pathway;~~

~~a global clock, coupled to said communication pathway; and~~

~~a plurality of master devices coupled to said communication pathway, wherein each of said master devices includes:~~

~~a local clock generator that generates a local clock, and~~

~~means for determining an offset between said global clock and said local clock,~~

~~wherein said offset is distributed to at least one of said master devices.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said first communication pathway comprises a first ~~wired~~ wireless communication pathway and wherein said second communication pathway comprises a second wireless communication pathway.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said ~~communication pathway~~

U.S. Application No. 09/935,082, filed August 21, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 15975US01

Amendment dated October 1, 2009

Accompanying Request for Continued Examination filed October 1, 2009

~~comprises a wireless communication pathway~~ respective offsets of said plurality of master devices are stored in a central offset storage device.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said global clock comprises one of said respective local clocks of the plurality of master devices.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 ~~further comprising a memory coupled to said communication pathway, wherein said offsets are stored in said memory~~ wherein said second master device requests the respective offset of said first master device, stores the respective offset of said first master device in the respective memory of said second master device, and uses the respective offset of said first master device to communicate with said slave device.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said ~~offset is~~ respective offsets are distributed by a central offset storage device upon request by one of said master devices.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein ~~each of said master devices further includes a local memory for storing offsets associated with at least one of said master devices~~ said respective memory of said second master device stores said respective offset of said first master device and said respective offsets of other master devices of said plurality of master devices.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said first master device comprises a first Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a first master in a first network and wherein said second master device comprises a second Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a

second master in a second network.

23. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a global clock transmitting, over a first communication pathway, a global clock signal to each master device of a plurality of master devices;

an offset control transmitting, over a second communication pathway, a respective and unique offset signal to each master device,

wherein each master device comprises a respective local clock generator that generates a respective local clock signal as a function of said respective offset signal and said global clock signal,

wherein said respective local clock signal of a first master device of said plurality of master devices is used by said first master device to synchronize wireless communication with a slave device, and

wherein said respective offset signal of said first master device is transmitted to a second master device of said plurality of master devices to facilitate a wireless handoff of said slave device from said first master device to said second master device

~~a communication pathway;~~

~~a global clock coupled to said communication pathway;~~

~~a plurality of master devices coupled to said communication pathway, wherein each of said master devices includes~~

~~means for generating a local clock using an offset and said global clock, wherein said offset is available to other of said master devices via said communication pathway.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said first communication pathway comprises a first wired communication pathway and wherein said second communication pathway comprises a second wired communication pathway.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said first communication pathway comprises a first wireless communication pathway and wherein said second communication pathway comprises a second wireless communication pathway.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said global clock generates a single global clock signal that is used by each master device and wherein said single global clock signal is generated by ~~comprises~~ one of said ~~local clocks~~ clock generators of said plurality of master devices.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 further comprising a memory coupled to said second communication pathway, wherein said offsets are stored in said memory.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein ~~said offset is distributed upon request by one of said master devices~~ each master device receives said respective offset for each of the other master devices.

29. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein each of said master devices further includes a local memory for storing offsets associated with at least one of said master devices.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said first master device comprises a first Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a first master in a first network and wherein said second master device comprises a second Bluetooth™ device configured to act as a second master in a second network.

31. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said respective offsets of said plurality of

master devices are predetermined and constant.

32. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein said first communication pathway comprises a bus that is coupled to a first card and a second card, wherein said first master device is part of said first card and wherein said second master device is part of said second card.

33. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein each master device intermittently posts said respective offset on said second communication pathway and wherein each master device intermittently receives, via said second communication pathway, said respective offsets of said other master devices of said plurality of master devices.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each master device intermittently transmits said respective offset and intermittently receives said respective offsets of said other master devices of said plurality of master devices.